

gret to go before the people with this section in it, which struck down at one blow sixty millions of property. If it was put in the constitution at all, it ought to be submitted as a separate proposition.

Mr. Horsey, of Frederick, raised the point that it was not in order for the gentleman to debate the subject before the Convention had decided whether the report should be opened.

The Chair (Mr. Brooke) decided the point well taken.

Mr. Brent called for the yeas and nays, when the Convention refused to open the report to the amendment by a vote of 59 to 30.

The Convention then elected to open the report to the amendment proposed by Mr. Barry, which was adopted. It is as follows:

"The Legislature at its first session after the ratification of this constitution shall provide by law for State and municipal taxation upon the revenues accruing from business done in the State by all foreign corporations."

Mr. Brown explained his vote in the negative by saying that he doubted the propriety of adopting into the constitution such an important provision without some consideration. He did not think the mere revenues of foreign corporations were a proper basis of taxation, and in fact he had his doubts as to whether it was not in conflict with the constitution of the United States.

Mr. George said a similar provision was now and had been in operation in the State of New York.

Mr. Jones said the Legislature would have the power to do this, as it was not prohibited, and he was opposed to encumber the constitution with such useless provisions.

Mr. Mitchell asked to open the report to an amendment providing that the 53d section shall be submitted to a separate vote of the people, when, if rejected, it shall not be part of the constitution. The section is as follows:

"No person shall be incompetent as a witness on account of race or color unless hereafter so declared by act of the General Assembly."

Mr. Rider called the yeas and nays, when 54 votes were cast in the affirmative and 48 in the negative. So the